

**In The Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for obtaining an image reference block in a picture in a code mode of fixed reference frame number in image encoding/decoding of digital video, comprising the steps of:

(a) performing motion estimation for each block of a current B frame and obtaining a motion vector MV of a corresponding block of a backward reference frame;

(b) discriminating whether the motion vector is beyond a maximum forward reference frame which is ~~possibly~~ pointed by the B frame, if not, proceeding to step (c); else, proceeding to step (d);

(c) a forward motion vector and a backward motion vector of a macro block being able to be calculated by the following formulas: assuming  $MV_F$  and  $MV_B$  as a forward motion vector and a backward motion vector of a current block,

$$MV_F = \frac{tb}{td} \times MV$$

$$MV_B = \frac{tb - td}{td} \times MV$$

here, tb is a distance in time domain between a current picture and a forward reference picture, and td is a distance in time domain between a forward reference picture and a backward reference picture;

(d) a forward motion vector and a backward motion vector of the macro block being able to be calculated by the following formulas: assuming  $MV_F$  and  $MV_B$  as a forward motion vector and a backward motion vector of a current block,

$$MV_F = \frac{tb'}{td} \times MV$$

$$MV_B = \frac{tb - td}{td} \times MV$$

here,  $tb$  is a distance in time domain between a current picture and a forward reference picture,  $td$  is a distance in time domain between a forward reference picture and a backward reference picture, and  $tb'$  is a distance in time domain between the current B frame and the forward reference frame which is ~~possibly~~ pointed by the B frame;

(e) two image blocks pointed by the  $MV_B$  and  $MV_F$  being image reference blocks corresponding to the macro block.

2. (original) The method for obtaining an image reference block in a code mode of fixed reference frame number as claimed in claim 1, wherein said obtaining a motion vector  $MV$  of a corresponding block of a backward reference frame in said step (a) includes: selecting a macro block with the same position as a macro block to be encoded in B frame to be a corresponding macro block from a backward reference P frame, and obtaining a motion vector of the macro block in P frame.

3. (currently amended)      The method for obtaining an image reference block in a code mode of fixed reference frame number as claimed in claim 1, wherein said discriminating whether the motion vector of the corresponding block in the backward reference frame is beyond a maximum forward reference frame which is ~~possibly~~ pointed by the B frame in step (b) includes: comparing whether a time domain obtaining the maximum forward reference frame which is ~~possibly~~ pointed by the B frame is larger than or equals to a time domain of a forward reference frame pointed by the motion vector of the corresponding block in the backward reference frame, if yes, then not beyond the maximum forward reference frame which is ~~possibly~~ pointed by the B frame; else, beyond it.